



Discover Your Asia

CHINA

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

Vietnam | Cambodia | Laos | Thailand | Myanmar
China | Hong Kong | Japan | Indonesia | Singapore | Malaysia

CHINA AT A GLANCE



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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Population: 1.4 billion

Capital City: Beijing (nearly 30 million)

People: 56 ethnic minorities

Language: Chinese

Currency: Chinese Yuan Renminbi (CNY)

Time Zone: UTC+8

International Dialing Code: +86

ABOUT CHINA

Geographically magnificent and endlessly diverse, China is a country of rich culture and history. Throughout the country's many travel destinations are nearly endless opportunities for discovery, from urban adventures to wilderness excursions. A journey through magnificent China promises a journey of a lifetime in one of Asia's most fascinating countries.



GENERAL INFORMATION



❖ PASSPORT AND VISA

Passport should be valid for six months from the date of entry into China. Most nationalities require a visa to visit China. Please consult with nearest Chinese embassy for more details and ensure that your Chinese entry visa is correct. You are highly recommended to keep a copy of your passport during your holiday. In China, passports are required for checking in at hotels, boarding flights and trains.

❖ CURRENCY

The official currency in China is the Yuan or Renminbi (CNY). It is divided into the units: yuan, jiao and fen.

1 yuan = 10 jiao = 100fen

Currency exchange is available at major banks, airports and some hotels. Be aware that you will need to show your passport

when you exchange money. The easiest foreign currencies to exchange are USD and EUR. Cash withdrawals can be easily made with widespread ATMs. Most ATMs provide services in both Chinese and English for easy access. It may not be widely possible to exchange unused CNY back into foreign currency so we suggest you exchange it in the international airport exchange desks.

❖ PHONES & INTERNET SERVICE

Telephone connection is widely available. You may need to register with your mobile supplier for international roaming services and check all the associated cost. Also, sim cards are available to purchase. There are two service options including China Mobile and China Telecom. You will be required to show ID or passport in order to purchase sim cards.



GENERAL INFORMATION



Internet access are available in major hotels and airport, however, there may be a fee charged to be able to access the internet in your hotel room.

❖TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are inexpensive way to get around major cities. You should always bring your hotel card with name and address in Chinese as taxi drivers do not speak English.

❖ WEATHER

The weather can vary in the extreme, from the heat of the deserts to the possibility of snow:

The Northeast

The northeast experiences hot and dry summers and cold winters with temperatures known to reach as low as -20°C (-4°F).

The North- Central China (Beijing, Xi'an)

The north and central region has almost

continual rainfall with hot summers and cold winter. Temperate can reach 40°C (104°F) in the summer and -10°C (14°F) in the winter. Regular dust storms and haze can occur in late winter and early spring

The South-Central China

Rainfall is concentrated in the monsoon months from late spring through summer, causing autumn and winter relatively dry. Summer is hot and humid while winter is cool with regular drizzle.

The Southeast

The southeast region has substantial rainfall (between April and July) with semi-tropical summers and cool winter.

The Western

Due to its dramatic and mountainous climate, averages much lower temperatures year around

CITY	☀ TEMPERATURE (°C)				☁ RAINFALL Volume (mm)							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beijing	-4 3	-1 5	6 8	14 21	20 34	24 78	26 185	25 160	20 46	13 22	5 7	-2 3
Shanghai	4 39	5 59	9 81	15 102	19 115	23 152	28 128	28 133	24 156	18 61	12 51	6 35





❖HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Medical care facilities of an international standard are expected to see in major cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, however rural areas may only provide you basic supplies and facilities. You are strongly recommended to consult your doctor or country's travel clinic for up-to-date information and advice regarding appropriate inoculations.

❖VACCINATIONS

Before travelling, please ensure you have adequate protection against disease. Some immunizations are highly recommended in-

cluding polio, tetanus, typhoid, MMR, hepatitis A&B

❖TRAVEL INSURANCE (RECOMMENDED)

Buffalo Tours does everything possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. However, travel inevitably involves some unavoidable risk. Travel insurance is a cost effective way of protecting yourself and your equipment should any problems occur such as cancelled trips, delays, medical emergencies, baggage loss or damage. Please also make sure your travel insurance covers all activities planned on your trip so you can enjoy peace of mind during your journey.



CULTURE & CUSTOMS



❖ ETIQUETTE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Experiencing different cultures is one of the joys of travelling, and it is important that these differences are respected. Knowing a few important customs of Chinese people will help make your visit more enjoyable:

DON'T:

- Point with a single finger
- Use your left hand, and take off your sunglasses or hat before extending your hand to shake someone's hand
- Touch holy men
- Stick your chopsticks vertically in a bowl of rice as it looks very similar to incense sticks that are burned for the dead.

DO:

- Respect religious customs by not wearing shorts

❖ FOOD AND DRINK

You will be incredibly surprised by the diversity

available. Cuisine varies throughout the country. Beijing is famous with delicious Beijing Duck. While Shanghai offers plenty of fresh seafood with sweet and rarely spicy Sichuan dishes tend to be hot using local peppercorn.

In larger cities, you will find various restaurants serving Western and other Asian cuisines, as well as vegetarian options.

It is not advisable to drink tap water in China. Bottled water is cheap and widely available.

❖ PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Chinese New Year (1st day of the 1st lunar month)
- Ching Ming festival (April 4 or 5)
- Labour Day (May 1)
- Dragon boat festival (5th of the 5th lunar month)
- Mid-autumn day (August 15 of lunar calendar)
- National Day (October 1)



HELPFUL TIPS



❖TIPPING

Tipping is a personal matter and travelers are encouraged to tip any amount they feel is appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a suggested tipping guide below:

- **Guides:** \$5 per day, per person (depending on the length of your trip and your perception of service quality)
- **Drivers:** \$3 per day, per person
- **Restaurants:** In luxurious restaurants, you may find that the tip is already included in the bill. In local restaurants, tips are not expected.
- **Soft drinks (0.33l):** 3 -10 CNY
- **Coffee:** 15 - 25 CNY
- **Street food:** from 3 CNY
- **Restaurant:** from 25 – 100 CNY/person
- **Sim card:** 50 - 80 CNY

❖PRICE GUIDE

- **Bottled water (1.5l):** 3CNY
- **Beer:** 2.5 – 4 CNY (from a grocery store), 4 – 8 CNY (from a restaurant), 10-30 CNY (from a bar)



PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST



- ☐ Travel documents: passport, visa (if required), travel insurance
- ☐ Photocopy of main passport pages, visa (if required)
- ☐ All relevant tickets
- ☐ Foreign currency (US\$) and/or ATM card
- ☐ Money belt and small padlocks
- ☐ Medication
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Small daypack (for day and overnight trips)
- ☐ Warm clothes - when travelling in cooler climates
- ☐ Wind and waterproof jacket
- ☐ Comfortable and sturdy walking shoes
- ☐ Sunscreen, lip balm, sunhat and sunglasses
- ☐ Electrical adapter plug
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Refillable water bottle

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